

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 7 July 2008

When the Floods Come

As I write this, I am preparing to leave town for our annual family vacation in Door County, Wisconsin. I'm also preparing the message for Sunday, June 22, from Acts 19, which describes a crisis situation in Ephesus for Paul and his followers. By now, I've returned from vacation, and the sermon has been delivered, but I suspect that deliverance from the tornados and floods of 2008 will have only begun.

As Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians, it is God's will that we 'rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.' In order to do that, we must have our wits about us, and our faith strong enough in the midst of crisis, to be able to recognize God's providence over all things, and his sovereignty to accomplish his will in all situations. As all of us who worshipped together at Sunday Night at the Kirk recently were reminded, we must 'check our mustard seed,' in trying times like this, and maintain a godly, Biblical perspective. Sin, natural disasters, and the wiles of the Evil One do not discriminate. All of us will experience trials in life. What is happening in Iowa now, will not be the last crisis we face. However, for those of us who have put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone, God's Word reminds us that nothing we experience in life is an accident. Nothing is outside of God's control. There is nothing we can do, experience, or have done to us, that God cannot and will not use to mold us, shape us, move us, or refine us, in order to accomplish his purposes – today, or in preparation for things to come.

Hebrews 12:2 reminds us, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Our Lord and Savior had to experience the shame, torture, and death of the cross before he could experience the joy of the presence of the Father. In order for us to experience the joy that is his for ourselves, we too will endure the struggles of life. Jesus said in ^{ESV} John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

We will overcome. But the road to victory runs through the trials of this life first. I rejoice with those of us, myself included, who have experienced minimal difficulty during the Floods of 2008, but I also rejoice for those who have struggled. Because through the struggle, God is there. And much is to be learned and gained through struggle. John Piper has said, "The path that leads to joy is a hard road. It's hard for us, and it was hard for Jesus. It cost him his life. It may cost us ours." No matter what trial you are experiencing today, water, marital, parenting, financial, job, check your mustard seed and know that Jesus endured the cross before he received the joy of heaven. This world is not our home. We are only passing through.

Pastor Michael



ESV Psalm 29:10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!



The Session

Moderator - Michael Mudlaff

Class of 2008

George De Graaf
 Chuck Heitbrink
 Ron Long
 Kevin Riggins

Class of 2009

Kevin Heer
 Marv Nugteren
 Barb Springer
 Kirk Yentes

Class of 2010

Rick Eyerly
 Ryan Glanzer
 Jerry Tuinstra
 Melinda Turnbull

Clerk of Session - Robin Riggins

Treasurer - Chris Brown

Assistant Treasurer - Aaron Pieper

Commission ChairPersons

Christian Education - Jerry Tuinstra
 Evangelism/Fellowship - Van Harden
 House and Grounds - Ron Long
 Missions - George De Graaf
 Stewardship - Chuck Heitbrink
 Worship - Kevin Riggins

Board of Deacons

Class of 2008

Barb Asman
 Dianne Glanzer
 Bette Jones
 Fran Nugteren
 Kris Thompson

Class of 2009

Marilyn Long
 Marillyn McCulloch
 John Schwien
 Sandy Tuinstra
 Sherie Whitehead

Class of 2010

Linda Aldrich
 Jeff Brady
 Kay Cunitz
 Cynthia Fisher
 Eric Wickemeyer



- 1 Larry Kussatz
- 2 Barbara Asman
- 4 George Falk
- 4 Aaron Pieper
- 7 *Lindsey Duff
- 10 Clarence Adden
- 10 Mildred Stoddard
- 11 *Molly Brown
- 11 *Monica Brown
- 11 Nylene Dory
- 11 Wiggs Lyman
- 13 *Olivia Eyerly
- 15 Sarah Brumfield
- 16 Jeff Brady
- 16 Florence Mills
- 17 David Arnold
- 18 Lana Ohlsen
- 19 *Sarah Brady
- 20 Harriet Crouch
- 20 Michael Mudlaff
- 20 Steve Randall
- 21 Erin Boresi
- 21 Doug Kanis
- 21 Kirk Yentes
- 24 Lynda Brown
- 24 Marilyn Long
- 24 Sarah Daugherty
- 24 Marilyn Long
- 24 Robin Riggins
- 25 Heather Sonnichsen
- 26 Stuart Smith
- 28 Sandra Carson
- 28 Mary King

*Youth Member



- 7 George & Gail DeGraaf
- 7 Kevin & Rachel Heer
- 13 Ken & Ann Bratney
- 14 Ken & Diane Leonard
- 14 Eric & Melissa Wickemeyer
- 15 Rus & Julie Norem
- 16 Sean & Kelli Glanzer
- 21 Fergus & Nyleve Taylor
- 23 Eric & Heather Schulz
- 29 Jeff & Amanda Harrison

Happy Birth Day!

May 20, 2008 was a special day for **Mary Watkins**. She became great-grandmother to Emery Rose Sampson (Rose is also Mary's middle name). Proud parents are Tory and Joe Sampson of Urbandale.

Congratulations to **Adam and Ashlee (Obrecht) Wilson** who became parents of daughter Morgan Maelynn on May 25. Proud grandmother and great-aunt are **Colleen Obrecht and Audrene Hansen**.

And there is another proud and happy Westkirk member. **Bob Schmadeke** has a new great-granddaughter, Drake A. Cornwell, who was born May 30 in Des Moines.

We pray for God's blessing of these little ones.

Sorry We're a Little Late!

Your copy of the July *Shepherd* arrived a couple days later than you usually receive Westkirk's monthly newsletter. We were a casualty of construction interruptions. Sorry for the inconvenience.

The pocket-size **Church Membership Directory** has been delayed for the same reason. It will be in your hands just as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

... Editor



The Bulletin Board

July Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Tuesday	7/1	Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	7/2	No WOW activities
Friday	7/4	Office closed. Independence Day

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Sunday	7/6	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Monday	7/7	Commissions Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7/8	New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room
Thursday	7/10	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7:00 p.m.
		VBS General Information Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Great Hall
Friday	7/11	Movie Night at Westkirk, dusk, <i>Evan Almighty</i>

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Sunday	7/13	Sunday School; Explorers, 9:00 a.m.
		Worship Service with Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m.
		Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	7/15	<i>Shepherd</i> articles for August due
		Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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Sunday	7/20	<i>Happy Birthday: Michael Mudlaff and Stephen Randall</i>
		Sunday School; Explorers, 9:00 a.m.
		Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
		Summer Choir Rehearsal immediately following worship
Monday	7/21	Session Meeting. 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7/22	Bagpipers Luncheon, 1:00 p.m., Skip's, 4000 Fluer Drive
		New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Friday	7/25	Movie Night at Westkirk, dusk, <i>Goonies</i>

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Sunday	7/27	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
		Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Sun.-Thur.	7/27-7/31	Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Explorers Update

Friends who are participating in the current Explorers group (new members class) will complete the required classes July 20 and be presented to the congregation to be received into Westkirk membership August 17.

Please plan to be present on that Sunday to welcome this class

Golfing For Jesus

The warm sunshine has finally taken hold, and that unfamiliar sound coming from your garage is... yes... your golf clubs crying out for attention! We must not neglect #9, #5, #3, daddy driver, uncle wedge, little putt putt, or any of those lonely family members that have been forgotten for so long. It's time to bring them out and nourish them to life.

What a great way to fellowship with each other and have some fun! The idea is that we will have one day a month that we get together and hack our way around some poor course... oh, that poor course... this could be ugly!

Initially, we would like to get an idea of who might be interested (no obligation to every month), and what courses you like. We are thinking that Saturday mornings would work the best, but please send your ideas and we will try to set it up so it works for as many as possible. I can organize the event, please send your info to hugh.sheppard@citi.com or call my cell at 515-339-9944.

... *Hugh Sheppard*

New Address

Recently one of our senior members relocated to North Carolina.

George Falk

Spring Harbor, Rm 309

1251 Winstab Street

Rocky Mount, NC 29803

George has a birthday soon. He will be 94 on the Fourth of July. **Let's all send cards to let him know his friends at Westkirk are thinking of him and wish him the best.** Please be sure to indicate that you are from Westkirk beneath your name.

Summer Choir Debut

Wasn't it nice to have a choir for the June 22 worship service? Thank you to all who shared their voices to sing praise to God.

We are looking forward to hearing them again in July and August. So, if you have been wanting a chance to sing along with a group, this is your invitation to participate in Summer Choir. You may speak with Director of Music Larry Kussatz or any regular choir member if you have questions.. Rehearsals are on the third Sunday of the month following worship to prepare for the next Sunday.

Congratulations, Graduates!

On Sunday, June 8 Westkirk honored these recent graduates for their accomplishments:

Alex Kloppstein	Johnston High School
Caitlin Miller	Valley High School
Aaron Reed	Roosevelt High School
Alex Stanborough	Johnston High School
	and
Miriam Alshouse	Drake University
Mark Dauterive	University of Phoenix
Dawn Vis	William Penn University

Our sincere congratulations on your graduation and our best wishes for your future endeavors.

Come to the Movies!

The Westkirk free movie series is well under way. The next scheduled event is on Friday, July 11. All movies begin at dusk. Showing on the 11th will be **Evan Almighty**. Then on July 25, we will see **Goonies**. Rain dates are scheduled for the following evening. Note that all movies are family friendly, so everyone may come.

There will be free popcorn and pop. And, be sure to bring a portable radio so you can tune in to the sound. – See you at the Movies!

Fly Your Flag on July 4!

Show your love for our great country by proudly displaying the American flag on the 4th of July. And, thank God we are privileged to live in a free nation. We are so blessed—let us never forget our responsibility to keep our country strong and free. Continue to pray for our troops abroad and for a lasting world peace.

Waiting for Baby

Stefanie and Steve Randall are counting the days until the arrival of their first baby. To help them prepare, a group of church friends sponsored a Baby Shower. It was a special, fun-filled afternoon. It looks like Stef and Steve are going to be able to handle things just fine!



A Westkirk Baptism

On Sunday, June 22, 2008 we celebrated the baptism of Kenzie Margreet Kanis, daughter of **Doug and Jess Kanis**. Kenzie was born March 6, 2008.



Don't Miss Adult Sunday School

The adult Bible class which meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. continues during the summer months. Be sure to be on hand as **Van Harden** conducts the session each week. This is a lively interactive Bible study.

It doesn't matter if you have studied the material before, there is always something new to be gained from the class. Bring your Bible and join the group next Sunday. You'll be glad you did!



July Stewardship Reports

General Fund

We are pleased to report that the months of April and May both were in the black. We are now about \$1500 ahead for the year 2008. Chris Brown, our treasurer, has indicated to the Session all year that he would like to have us at break even, or ahead by the end of the second quarter (June), so that we are prepared to take on the added responsibility of the new mortgage come July. Early projections for June look like we will reach that goal. Therefore, as we projected at last August's congregational meeting, we anticipate going into the red for the remainder of 2008 until we receive our annual year-end gifts in November and December. As you recall, 2008 will be the most difficult of the three financial years we planned with the building project funding campaign. We are delighted that, to date, our projections have been met or exceeded by the congregation.

Growth Projects

We are in the final stages of completion of the new wing! As we anticipated with a project of this scope, and reported in the May issue of the *Shepherd*, there have been numerous changes, surprises and adjustments to the building expansion. The majority of these change orders are due to unforeseen site adjustments, city and county code requirements, and unanticipated needs. Since that time, we have finalized the costs that were approved by the Building Committee and the Session.

Treasurer Chris Brown, and I recently met with our bank and lender, First American, to explore all of the options we have to meet the remaining overage, and discuss when we can lock in our loan and interest rate. Because of our strong financial history, several options are available to us for meeting the additional costs. They include: using existing funds (general fund, major maintenance, others), borrowing additional monies, extending the length of the loan, taking advantage of the savings from the lower than anticipated interest rates, utilizing the additional giving that came in from the initial 2007 pledges given to the building campaign, or any combination of the above. Stewardship is now working with the Session to put forth a proposal to finalize the financing we approved last August and meet these additional obligations. A congregational meeting will be announced shortly in order to approve or modify that proposal, once it is complete.

Major Maintenance Needs

In order to address an annual maintenance issue that was heightened this year due to the unusual winter, the House and Grounds Commission made a recommendation at the June meeting of the Session to replace the curbs and gutters in the original parking lot. Three bids were received and one was approved by the Session, with funds from the Major Maintenance fund. So, we are excited to report that later this summer,



. . . *Stewardship report continued*

or in early fall (once completion of the east wing is finished and the parking lot is returned to its full potential), new, concrete curbs and gutters will be poured, and the adjoining ground surrounding the lot will be graded and reseeded.

Wish List Report

In May, we listed several items to complete or enhance the new addition on a ‘wish list.’ As promised in August, these items were left out of the building contract so that we could keep costs down and be prepared for unexpected changes. Since we have had several changes, we think the congregation acted wisely in holding off on these ‘wants.’ Here is an updated list with some additional items.

- Audio/visual equipment for the Children’s Multi Purpose Room \$3800
- Audio/visual equipment for the Youth space \$3200
- Kitchenette for the Youth space \$2000
- White/bulletin boards for Christian Education rooms donated
- Update Senior Pastor’s Office furniture \$4000
- Senior Pastor’s Lounge furniture \$4500
- New carpet and installation for the Hospitality Room \$4600
- New access (door) to the exterior from the existing kitchen eliminated
- 8 clocks for the classrooms and nurseries \$10.00 each
- 3 round tables \$200.00 each
- 2 round children’s table \$200.00 each
- 24 metal folding chairs \$25.00 each
- 10 children’s chairs \$25.00 each
- Window coverings for multi purpose room \$1500.00

It is not necessary to give the entire amount. We are preparing a breakdown of some of the items for those of you who have inquired and would like to give towards a portion of one of the above wish list items.

Perhaps you have not yet decided to give to the new Growth Projects. It is not too late and your gifts would be used to further lower our future payments. Please prayerfully consider giving, but only in addition to your regular gifts to the ongoing ministry at Westkirk.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Commission.





GARAGE SALE RESULTS ARE IN!!!!

A HUGE THANKS to Rus, Julie, Ashley and Eli who did a superb job in setting up and providing leadership for this project. Thanks also to all the Mission Commission members, and many other West-kirk family members for all the effort given from planning to clean-up. A special thanks to Barb McCargar for all the extra work this gave her to do and for her doing it so well! The preliminary sales results were over \$1700 and several sales are still pending. We are hopeful that our final total will be over \$2000. What did we do with the left-overs? There were carloads sent to HOPE Ministries, Goodwill, West Des Moines Children Center, and 6 boxes of books for Iowa Right to Life book sale. And, some of the things were put into the trash, but not much.

The Mission Team, which so far is comprised of eight people, will benefit from this effort. They will be heading down to Monterey, Mexico to help out at the Back2Back ministry there.

BABY BOTTLES FOR RUTH HARBOR

Preliminary Totals. There were 27 bottles returned on Father's Day, and many more promises of returns for June 22. If you still have a baby bottle sitting at your house with money in it, you may still hand it over!!!! Please!!!! The monies will be used for the Driveway reconstruction at Ruth Harbor. The total money received so far is approximately \$458.50. WOW - That's Fantastic!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Many stores have special sales in July and title them early Christmas sales, and there are early school supplies on sale. On July 25, if you tune into Family Radio at 91.3 FM - KDFR - you can hear Christmas music played all day long. SO - - - We are promoting the OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoe box ministry for July. On July 6 we will be handing out wrapped and unwrapped boxes for you and your family to fill, and return them on July 27. Somer Gillett will store the returned full boxes until the final collection date in November.

Gift ideas include: small toys such as cars, balls, yo-yos, jump ropes, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, small Etch-a-Sketch, toys that need small batteries, batteries, Slinky, school supplies, hygiene items such as tooth brushes, paste, bar soap in a plastic bag, wash cloths, comb, hair clips, etc., hard candy and lollipops in plastic bags, mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, slippers, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights with extra batteries.

In a separate envelope you may write a note to the child who will be receiving your box. Include a photo and even your name and address. To create a personal note card: draw around your hand and color it, adding this note: "This is my hand, when you place your hand on mine, think about me. I prayed for you to get this box."

Thank You for your part in supporting all of these ministries. Should you have any questions regarding the Missions that we support, please see any one of the Mission Commission. They are: George & Gail De Graaf, Cynthia Fisher, Somer Gillett, Ryan Glanzer, Dan Marvin, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sheri Whitehead.

. . . George De Graaf, Chair

Westkirk Tours Teen Challenge

Last month Westkirk took a bus tour to Teen Challenge of the Midlands in Colfax. Isaac Hunsberger kicked off the tour on the way to the Campus. Lunch was enjoyed with students and staff. A tour of the grounds followed. God is doing marvelous works at Teen Challenge and we are happy to be participating in this ministry



East Wing Update

The administrative offices have moved into the new wing. Karen Admussen is located in Miss Elaine's old office space. Pastor Mudlaff's and Assistant Pastor Randall's offices are located in the new wing just past the elevator as you enter on the west end of the new wing. You will find Miss Elaine's office just inside the west entrance to the new wing.

The new wing is nearly finished. Gutters are in place. The wing has been painted inside and out. A few final touches are to be completed and then the wing will receive its final inspection and should be ready to occupy within the next month barring any additional issues that have to be dealt with due to the inspection. You can reach the new wing via the hallway where the Pastor's old office was located. It will be a welcome addition to Westkirk and provide needed classroom space, a new nursery, administrative offices, a youth room, storage space and a small auditorium.

The balcony seats are due to arrive and should be installed soon. The balcony will seat nearly 70. Westkirk is growing and is prepared to add more of God's children to its membership.

. . . Bill Raisch

Presenting . . .

Larry and Sherie Whitehead

“It was a God thing!” This was Larry’s response to the question of why he and Sheri made their first visit to Westkirk, and also the reason they have made it their home church.

Now for their story.....Sherie’s family, including parents, three brothers and a sister, moved from Unionville, Missouri to Des Moines when she was 13. She graduated from Des Moines Technical High School having majored in computer programming.

She soon found employment with Northwestern Bell, staying there through at least two company name changes. She must have enjoyed her work there because in 2003 she retired from Qwest having been a loyal employee for 30 years. Currently Sheri works full time as a billing analyst at Iowa Network Services.

Larry is a native of rural Iconium, Iowa. His only sibling is a sister who resides in California. He graduated from Moravia High School and attended an extension of Indian Hills College in Centerville for two years, majoring in electronics. His interest then and now is electronics, specifically telecommunications. Larry’s career began with National Cash Register in Dayton, Ohio, but soon his services were requested by the U.S. Army where his electronics training and experience were put to good use. His principal service was as a “Technical Observer,” operating and maintaining airborne electronic surveillance equipment in Vietnam (1965-1966). After his discharge from the Army, Larry progressed through a variety of technical and managerial positions with Northwestern Bell, retiring in 1990 after 23 ½ years. Since then he has worked 15 years for Iowa Network Services in West Des Moines.

Larry’s and Sherie’s paths crossed while both were working at Northwestern Bell. Both were busy parents and their children were very important to them. Sherie has two daughters and four grandsons. Larry has two sons, three granddaughters and a grandson.

Not wanting to bring problems to the marriage, they waited until their children were out of school to marry. October 16, 1999, Sheri and Larry were married in front of the fireplace in their own new home by the Pastor of New Hope United Methodist Church with their family members present. Nearly nine years later that fireplace mantel holds quite a gallery of grandchildren’s pictures and they are displayed with great pride.

Before marriage Sherie and Larry made the decision to find a good church in which to worship and grow. Sherie’s background was Baptist and Larry’s Methodist. They had attended a few churches and were again looking to change when a card from Westkirk appeared in their mail announcing the start of The Purpose Driven Life Study Series. They were curious about Rick Warren and his writings and having driven by Westkirk many times and admiring the architecture and setting of our “kirk,” they decided to check us out. They were very impressed with Michael’s sermon being straight from “the source” (Bible), blessed by the marvelous music from Larry K’s organ playing and the unexpected pleasure of seeing old acquaintances of Larry’s, Dick Reed and Don Dory. They continued to attend Sunday worship and soon started attending Sunday school, took the ALPHA course and joined a small group, where they found close Christian fellowship. They have been members of Westkirk for three years and are in awe at the growth of their Faith and understanding of God’s Grace. Thus, Larry explains it as “a God Thing.”

Sherie has helped in the nursery, WOW, Bible School, Kids Own Worship and served on the Missions Commission. In January she was installed as a Deacon. Sherie suffers back pain and is trying to cut back a



little on some activities as she takes on the responsibilities of Deacon. She enjoys reading, crocheting, (attends the Prayer Shawl ministry), and quality time with the grandchildren.

Larry provides unique service to the congregation through maintaining our excellent Westkirk.org web site. His electronic expertise is also useful with regard to the computer, telephone and sound systems. He continues to serve on the Missions Commission. For recreation Larry is on the board of directors and enjoys shooting at the New Pioneer Clay Target Center. He likes to assemble computers (for himself and family) and he maintains four or five other web sites besides ours. In the future, Sherie and Larry hope to do some scenic traveling in the Northwest.

I agree with Larry.... It is a God thing! God knew they needed to be where they could grow in Faith and Knowledge and He also knew that Westkirk Presbyterian Church needed willing and able leaders to serve in The Work here. Thanks to the Whiteheads for serving and thanks to God for how He provides.

.....by Carolyn Chenoweth

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New Stephen Minister Training Class Set to Begin

Caring Ministry at Westkirk Presbyterian Church will be expanding soon, as the Stephen Ministry prepares to offer Stephen Minister training, to begin in September. For those whom God is calling to this significant ministry, at the completion of their training, they will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They will then begin providing one-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life.

“The training is excellent. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian caregiving. The training is intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it is also a growth producing and enjoyable experience,” says Pastor Michael. The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training is broken down into twenty 2 1/2-hour sessions that will be held on Tuesday evenings here at Westkirk. Among the training topics are:

Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours

The Art of Listening

Distinctively Christian Caring

Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly

Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving

Confidentiality

Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

Caring for People before, during, and after hospitalization

“We are excited to facilitate the training,” says Carolyn Eyerly. “One of the exciting things about being a Stephen Leader is learning right along with the Stephen Ministers. When we did our first Stephen Minister training last year, we learned a lot about caregiving, and it was also a time of personal and spiritual growth for all of us. Our trainees are really in for a neat experience.”

More than a quarter-million people have gone through Stephen Ministry training in more than 7,000 churches worldwide since the ministry began in 1975. “We are excited to provide yet another way to help us provide distinctively Christian care to our congregation, as well as people from the community. People whose needs might otherwise slip through the cracks will come face to face with Jesus’ love through their Stephen Minister. Our new class will KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN in new ways to others.”

Please prayerfully consider applying to become one of our new Stephen Ministers. Keep looking in the bulletin and the *Shepherd* over the coming weeks and months and watch for regular training class updates. If you would like to know more, contact one of our Stephen Leaders for an application and more information. They are: Karen Breeding, Rick and Carolyn Eyerly, Pastor Michael and Elly Smith.

Thank You Notes . . .

Pastor Mudlaff,

We had another very impressive Police Memorial Service. Your assistance made it very special. On behalf of the Urbandale Police Department and the Police Benevolent Association, I would like to thank you for participation in another successful Memorial Service

*Sincerely,
Lt. Terry Nielsen
Staff Services Commander*

*Pastor Michael Mudlaff
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
Good morning!*

Thank you so much for inserting the Salvation Army informational flyer into your church's worship bulletin last Sunday. We sincerely appreciate your help in telling our community about The Salvation Army and what we're doing in the Dallas, Polk and Warren County area.

If ever we can be of assistance to you or your congregation, please call me. Also, if you know of a family in your congregation that could benefit from the outreach of The Salvation Army, don't hesitate to refer them to our family services department at 282-3422.

Thanks again for your help. As St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "We always thank God for all of you . . ."

*Sincerely,
Arvid Huisman
Development Director*

Westkirk Family,

Thank you for the beautiful Bromeliad plant for Ardythe Sloan's memorial

It is one plant that will be shining a long time.

*In God's Love
Darrell and Linda [Aldrich]*

Baby Dedication

On Sunday, June 1, 2008 Westkirk celebrated the dedication of **Owen Christopher Hagenow**, son of Christopher D. and Amanda K. Hagenow. Owen was born December 1, 2007.

Westkirk Family

Thank you for the gorgeous Bromeliad plant. We will take good care to remind us of Ardythe.

*God's Love
The Aldrich Family*

Dear Westkirk,

Thank you for getting me a \$50 gift card to Well-spring. I bought some books and a communion bracelet. Also a prayer rock. Thank you again!!!

*Love,
Ashley [Norem]*

Dear Westkirk Church Family,

Thank you for helping me to understand and love God. My Confirmation was a very special day for me! I am so blessed to have such a wonderful family at home and at church!!! Thank you also for the amazing gift card to Wellspring! I'm excited to find something special there!

*Love,
Olivia Eyerly*

To All My Precious Family at Westkirk:

I want to thank and praise all of you for being so kind & thoughtful of me during a difficult time—partial knee replacement. God has placed all of you in my life and I want you all to know how very grateful and thankful I am and remain to be!

Thank you for the food, the beautiful cards, the visits, the flowers and most of all, your treasured friendships and prayers.

We all belong to God's Kingdom because of His love and what He did for all of us. I am thankful for our church family and our blessed Pastor M.

*In God's love,
Marilyn McCulloch*

Pray for the Military

Pray for our military men and women—always.

"Lord, hold our troops in your hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."

Children's Ministry

“My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:7-8

God is our rock, and we can come to him if our basement is flooded or even if we can't decide what to have for dinner. Praise be to God! This month at Westkirk we have Sunday School, Kids of the Kingdom, Kids Own Worship, camp, and Vacation Bible School. Won't you join us for some summertime fun with God?

Summer Camp: The following children will be attending camp this summer, mostly at Twin Lakes Christian Camp in Manson, Iowa. We are thrilled that these children will be immersed in God's Word, worship, and fellowship during their time at camp. Take a moment to pray for these children that they may be safe and deepen their relationship with Jesus while they are away at camp.

Family Camp (7/3-7/6): Eric, Monica & Pam Brown

Summer Adventure (7/6-7/11): Micah Mudlaff, Nathan Vis, Eli Norem, Skip Davis

Summer Challenge (7/13-7/18): Ashley Norem

Lake View Camp (7/14-18): Olivia Eyerly

Kanakuk (6/29-7/5): Madeline Heer

VBS: The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: It's time to register for a Veggie Tale Bible Adventure July 27-31 from 6-8 p.m.. Registrations can be found in the Narthex. Also, if you are interested in volunteering, there is still room for you! Just call Karen



Admussen at church or contact Gloria Huyser. There will be two training dates at church: Sunday, June

29 at 3:00 p.m. for those helping with Games, Bible Story, and Crafts, captains/first mates, and Sunday, July 13 at 3:00 p.m. for Shipmates. If you would like to donate any of the following items, simply bring them to church and put them in the big bucket in the Narthex: clean, empty water bottles, pony beads, coupons for Michael's or Hobby Lobby, fabric markers, wooden planks, dark brown craft foam, tiny sea shells, or leather lacing.

Extreme Faith Club 56 Retreat: Last month the fifth and sixth graders had their first retreat at church. Thirteen boys and girls, as well as Chris & Pam Brown and I ate pizza, played water games outside, challenged each other to eat some pretty weird foods, listened to Jerry Tuinstra tell Bible stories, and then played board games into the wee hours of the morning. The purpose of the retreat was for the kids to get to know each other, have fun together and encourage them to stretch their faith.



Ministry & Mission Week: August 11-15 BLAST & CLUB 56 will be teaming up for a week of projects to benefit the church, our community, and Christians around the world. We will meet at church each morning and then have a celebration at the end of the week.

The Shepherd

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July 2008

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